

# Ministry of the Good Shepherd

November 2018



Dear Friends at St. Joan of Arc:

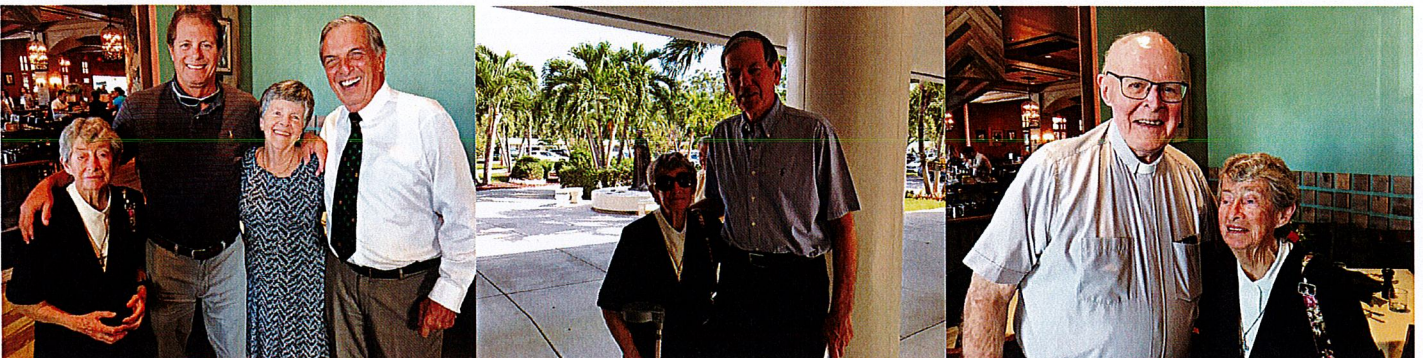
That lovely time of Thanksgiving is drawing near and as I sit in the Lord's presence thinking about all that I am thankful for St. Joan of Arc Parish is high on my list. I say to myself, "Where would we be in Alto Trujillo, Peru without the support of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd and members of the parish?"

This past year I had the wonderful opportunity of visiting and speaking at St. Joan's on the invitation of Msgr. McGraw, and meeting so many old friends and making new ones. It was a real joy to renew friendships but also to meet younger people who are willing to continue to support the projects here. Heading as I am for my 83rd birthday, and walking with a cane, I have to be realistic and acknowledge that my time here is now limited and that I will have to return to the Green Isle. But there are younger sisters here and so the mission continues. I haven't words to express my gratitude for your kindness to Sr. Catalina and me during our visit, and for the extremely generous collection taken up.

During 2018 we also had the blessing of a visit from the president of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd, Marjorie O'Sullivan and the Zuloaga family. These visits are very important as they result in a clear understanding of how donations are spent, and the difference they make in the lives of the poor here. St. Joan of Arc Parish makes a huge difference in the lives of many people here, especially children. This past year, our congregation in Ireland built us a convent in the new Human Settlement where we have been ministering for almost 20 years now. We are very happy to be living among the people in our new convent. The area is growing every day and so constantly there are new needs. The programs you sponsor, Care Centers, Special Children, Library, Send a Child to School, Scholarships, all continue to be in great demand and are operating very well, serving a real need.

Unfortunately, the corruption and the violence continue so we are a long way from the Reign of God that Jesus came to bring us. But there are a lot of good people around too, so we have hope. May the Lord bless you on this lovely time of Thanksgiving and know that you have a special place in our hearts here, and with you I thank the Lord for his blessings over the years, for me 24 years in Boca Raton, 28 in Peru and during the year 2018.

Gratefully,  
Sr. Immaculata Murphy





## YOU MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

Many friends and supporters of Good Shepherd Ministry have never been to Peru or met -in person - Sisters Immaculata or Catalina. So it was a blessing that for ten days in mid-September, the Sisters (Irish born/ Peruvian in their hearts!) moved among us. They were at meetings, receptions, classes and masses and their message was one of deep thanks: "You make such a difference in the lives of our community."

At a jam-packed Board meeting the first night, Marie Parker (Ministry Secretary) presented the Sisters with twenty high quality world maps to be given to the Care Centers. Over the last twenty years, a wonderful web of caring has been woven, connecting County Cork, Boca Raton, Alto Trujillo and Mache. We wanted the children to see those connections.

Deep and lasting relationships have been formed. Marvelous programs -after school care centers, a library, transport for special children, an adult technical school, a young adult center, support for young school children and scholarships for university children -these have been faithfully supported through the Ministry by your donations.

Consider the library -launched twenty years ago by a \$20,000 donation from Ray Eckstein. It remains a vibrant hub for reading and study especially for children of the area. We fund the salary of the librarian. The current librarian, Gissela, is a strong, enthusiastic community leader. She has earned the admiration of the municipal and regional governments -no small feat when you work with limited resources in an area of extreme poverty.

She recently took the initiative to enter the library in a contest for best proposal to promote literacy among children. The prize was \$8,000. She won! The money will go for books, dictionaries and encyclopedias, to be given to the 20 care centers. Over 200 children will have gained a valuable resource!

As the Sisters described for us their heartfelt love for the people they serve, we were deeply moved to renew our commitment to their work. They tell us we are a blessing to them; we reply, "it is we who are blessed!"

On behalf of the Ministry of the Good Shepherd, we extend our warm wishes to all for a joyous Christmas and a fruitful New Year. May the Spirit of Christ be born anew in your hearts and empower your lives to reflect His mercy and love.

Marjorie O'Sullivan, President



**CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY!!!**

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